

# APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2007



"When I began the fellowship, I was passionate about shaping public policy, but I had no idea where I fit in the process. The fellowship focused my policy interests, sharpened my convictions, and helped me to realize where I belong. I began the year with a commitment to serving the public, and ended with a career."

Pamela Bachilla

The Center for California Studies is a public education, public service and applied research unit of California State University, Sacramento devoted to promoting understanding of California's history, cultures and public policies. Founded in 1984 and located on the capital campus of the California State University, the Center possesses a unique trust: to bring the resources of the state's largest university system to the service of public discourse, civic education and state government. The Center draws on the services and talents of scholars throughout the 23 campuses of the California State University and on the expertise of professionals and practitioners throughout the state.

### 2007-2008 CALIFORNIA SENATE FELLOWS

At no other time in its history has California been so squarely at the forefront of societal change and public policy demands. The list of challenges and opportunities for meaningful public policy decision-making is unprecedented.

A small group of keenly interested, deeply motivated and talented individuals has the opportunity to work within this environment as California Senate Fellows. With the Capitol as both workplace and classroom, Senate Fellows serve as professional Senate staff members and earn graduate units from California State University, Sacramento.

The fellowship program is jointly sponsored by the California Senate and the Center for California Studies, California State University, Sacramento.







"As someone who spent most of his college career studying international issues, my eleven-month hands-on experience in the State Senate was particularly eye opening. Not only did I learn about the political process and the complex policy challenges facing my home state of California, I also learned first hand about the tremendous potential to make a difference in people's lives that public service at the state level provides. Though there are ample opportunities to serve the public near and far, there is nothing more rewarding than contributing to making your home a more livable and fair place. Like nothing else, the Senate Fellowship offers that opportunity." Matthew Haney

"The Senate Fellowship
provided me with the
invaluable opportunity to
become fully absorbed in the
Capitol community. Through
superb mentoring and active
participation in policy—my
principles have been fortified,
and my aspiration to serve
others has been rejuvenated.
I credit the Fellowship for
preparing me for a macro
career in policy and advocacy."
Jetta Keeney



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Experience and Insight into the Legislative Process
The Academic Component4
The 2005-2006 Class of Senate Fellows
The Work of a Senate Fellow10
Stipend and Benefits11
Who Can Apply?12
Application Process
Selection Process and Criteria14
Filing Deadline
Calendar of Important Dates
For Futher Information



Photographs by Don Nahhas

"I entered my placement with a commitment to my social values, but little policy experience. I felt welcomed and respected by my colleagues, who even entrusted me with one of the Senator's most high profile and controversial pieces of legislation. The learning experience afforded by the fellowship is invaluable and truly unique."

Jonathan Snowden





"I could not have imagined how steep the learning curve would be. Within a month of my placement, I was drafting legislation, staffing committees, and preparing statements for my member. The experience has been incredible and I am certain it will inpact the work I do for many years to come."

# EXPERIÊNCE AND INSIGHT INTO THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

he California Senate Fellows program grew out of a desire to provide people with insight into the legislative process through experiential learning. It offers college graduates a paid, fulltime legislative staff position in the State Capitol for 11 months.

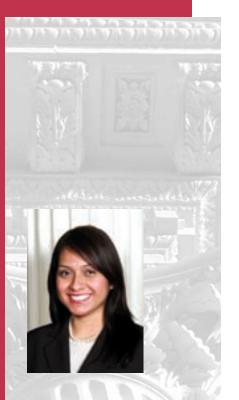
The fellowship broadens the perspective of those planning careers in academia, public service and the private sector. Fellows develop an understanding of the legislative process and how it relates to their chosen fields of work as well as to their other areas of interest.

In addition to providing Fellows with exposure to the legislative process, the program provides Senate members and policy committees with research and other professional staff assistance.

Fellows are expected to have a strong interest in public policy and politics; however, prior legislative experience is not required. A fiveweek orientation at the beginning of the program includes information and discussion pertaining to state government, the legislative process and major policy issues.



"Coming into the fellowship as a student activist, I was critical of the political process in California. This fellowship exposed me to the legislature, a place that I never considered as a platform for change in the communities that need it most. I have discovered that through discussion and compromise, legislative measures can provide a mechanism for positive social change and a promising future for the state of California." Pedro Salcido



"My year as a California
Senate Fellow helped me
strengthen existing values
and hone the necessary
skills needed to become
a contributor to the
nation's next generation
of leadership, to return as
a servant to underserved
communities and continue
a career in public service.
Public Policy 101 has
nothing on being a California
Senate Fellow."
Andrea Ambriz

Fellows meet and learn from Senators, senior legislative staff, journalists, lobbyists and various state government officials. The Fellows also participate in academic seminars conducted by university faculty.

Senate Fellows often continue working in the public policy arena after completing the program. Many hold senior staff positions with the Legislature, and others hold highlevel positions in the executive branch. Some former Fellows now serve as elected officials in local government or as members of the Legislature or the U.S. Congress. Alumni move back and forth between the public and private sectors during the course of their careers and are found in virtually every profession and vocation.

The fellowship program was established in 1973. In 1984, the program affiliated with the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento (Sacramento State) and is now jointly operated by the Senate and the university.

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While participating in mock committee hearings, Fellows assume the roles of Senators, staff, lobbyists and members of the public.



"No doubt, the Senate Fellowship is an unparalleled opportunity to substantively work towards the betterment of California. Whether you have been politically active your whole life or are only beginning to explore the political realm, the program is the perfect entrée into state legislative governance and public policy. The fellowship uniquely blends two perspectives - by facilitating the engagement of today's pressing issues in real-life situations, and the examination of them in an academic environment for a more complete understanding." Julius Chen



## THE ACADEMIC COMPONENT

he academic portion of the Senate Fellows program consists of two graduate seminars taught by faculty from the Sacramento State government department.

Weekly seminars in the Capitol provide an academic perspective to complement what each Fellow is learning through his or her office placement. The seminars also afford an opportunity for Fellows to discuss their respective fellowship work experiences.

The academic component increases knowledge and understanding of legislatures and state government, thereby enhancing the Fellows' effectiveness as Senate staff. The program Faculty Advisor assigns written projects and oral presentations.

Fellows register as Sacramento State graduate students during the Spring 2008 semester. All student fees are paid through the program; there is no cost to individual Fellows.

Senate Fellows earn 12 units of graduate credit. Although some of the units are applicable toward a graduate degree at Sacramento State, separate application to a specific degree program is required.

Other universities accept the units on a case-by-case basis. Fellows are eligible to defer their student loans for the duration of the program.



Fellows participate in weekly academic seminars conducted in the Capitol.





"The fellowship provides a unique experience of participating in the legislative process, while engaging in weekly academic seminars with your peers. Working as a legislative aide allowed me to improve my professional writing and speaking skills as I frequently staffed my Senator on legislation and provided him with various materials. Additionally, the seminars we participated in provided an academic space for us to think critically about a variety of policy issues and engage in vigorous debate." Deanna Furman

### 2005 – 2006 SENATE FELLOWS



Sitting, Left to Right: Rebekah Anderson and Andrea Ambriz.

Middle Row, Left to Right: Pamela Bachilla, Ahmad Chapman, Nicole Miller, Christina Wong, Esteban Galvan, Jetta Keeney and Pedro Salcido.

Back Row, Left to Right: Matthew Moreali, Deanna Furman, Todd Roberson, Ze-wen (Julius) Chen, Robin Finley, Jason Spencer, Matthew Haney and Jonathan Snowden.

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The Senate Fellows program is about learning, working hard and scholarship; but it's also about having a good time and developing friendships.

Seventeen other fellows help to make the fellowship a very special and memorable experience.



### 2005-2006 SENATE FELLOWS

### Andrea Ambriz

Los Angeles, CA B.A. (Public Policy and Sociology) De Paul University

### Rebekah Anderson

Citrus Heights, CA B.A. (Government) CSU Sacramento\*\*

### Pamela Bachilla

Escondido, CA B.A. (Political Science and Sociology) UC\* Berkeley

### **Ahmad Chapman**

Fremont, CA B.A. (Political Science) San Jose State University

### Julius Chen

Valencia, CA B.A. (History) Princeton University

### **Robin Finley**

Thousand Oaks, CA B.A. (Political Science) UC Berkelev

### **Deanna Furman**

Los Angeles, CA B.A. (Urban and Environmental Policy) Occidental College

### Esteban Galvan

Sylmar, CA B.A. (Chicano Studies) Stanford University

### **Matthew Haney**

South Pasadena, CA B.A. (Political Science and Interdisciplinary Studies) UC Berkeley

### Jetta Keenev

Clearlake, CA B.A. and MSW (Social Work) CSU Chico

### Nicole Miller

Los Angeles, CA B.A. (Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities) Stanford University

### **Matthew Moreali**

Pollock Pines, CA B.A. (Politics) University of San Francisco

### **Todd Roberson**

Fresno, CA B.A. (Political Science) UC Santa Barbara

### Pedro Salcido

El Monte, CA B.A. (Politics and Latin American Studies) UC Santa Cruz

### Jonathan Snowden

Oakland, CA B.A. (Anthropological Science) Stanford University

### **Jason Spencer**

Concord, CA B.A. (Sociology and Political Science) Sonoma State University\*\*

### **Christina Wong**

Sacramento, CA
B.S. (Conservation and
Resource Studies)
UC Berkeley

\*University of California \*\*California State University

# "I cannot think of a better way for someone interested in politics to make the transition from being a student to working full-time. Working in the building where our laws are written makes for fast and exciting days. The fellowship is a heck of a way to learn a lot quickly and meet many smart, interesting people." Todd Roberson

# THE WORK OF A SENATE FELLOW

hat does a Fellow do? Fellows perform the full range of professional staff functions associated with busy legislative offices. During the orientation period, Fellows participate in an interview process that results in their assignment to a specific office for the remainder of the program.

Although each Fellow's placement is unique, there are two main categories — assignments to an individual Senator's Capitol office and placements with Senate policy committees. Sometimes, there is a mix of committee and personal office work responsibilities.

### SENATE MEMBER'S OFFICE

Fellows assigned to the Capitol offices of Senate members have a variety of responsibilities in several different policy areas. Primarily, they assist their Senators in developing and implementing the member's legislative agenda.

Fellows work on their legislator's bills, write speeches and press releases, meet with constituents and lobbyists, aid with constituent inquiries and casework, staff the member in assigned issue areas, and perform other delegated tasks.

### SENATE POLICY COMMITTEES

Fellows are part of the professional staff who analyze legislation before it is considered in committee. Each committee is assigned responsibility for acting on legislation in specific issue areas. Consequently, Fellows assigned to policy committees specialize and develop expertise with respect to the subject matter jurisdiction of the committee.

Additional committee staff responsibilities include research assignments and assisting the chairperson with committee-related legislation that she or he is moving through the Legislature.

# STIPEND & BENEFITS

ellows receive monthly stipends as well as health, vision and dental benefits. The amount of the monthy stipend for the 2007-2008 fiscal year is \$1972.





"The Senate Fellows Program provided an invaluable experience that expanded my professional skills immensely and gave me the rare opportunity to learn from top Legislative staff and government officials. More importantly, I was able to build relationships with talented staff and other fellows that enriched my experience at the Capitol. I feel honored to be a part of the special fellow network for the rest of my life." Christina Wong

"The fellowship is a great combination of trial by fire and targeted, precise mentorship. My office gave me the freedom to define my workload and make my own decisions throughout the process. At the same time, there was always an experienced set of ears there for me to hounce those decisions off. I cannot imagine a better foundation for my graduate school experience." Jason Spencer

### WHO CAN APPLY?

he program welcomes applications from anyone who will be at least 20 years of age and a graduate of a four-year college or university by September 1, 2007, and who is authorized to work in the United States for the duration of the program.

Applicants need not be California residents; however, preference will be given to candidates who demonstrate knowledge of – and commitment to – the state. There is no preferred major. Recent college graduates, individuals with advanced degrees, and people who are considering a change in career are all encouraged to apply.

# APPLICATION PROCESS

very applicant must submit a packet consisting of the completed application, college transcript(s), three letters of recommendation and a written personal statement.

Applications and additional information are available on the program Web sites at www.csus. edu/calst/senate and www.sen. ca.gov/ftp/sen/fellows/\_home.

Individuals who do not have access to the Internet and/or who would like additional information pertaining to the California Senate Fellows program should contact the program director at (916) 651-4160 (Senate) or (916) 278-5408 (Sacramento State).

Copies of the brochures and applications for all four fellowship programs administered by the Center for California Studies can be obtained by visiting the Center Web site at www.csus.edu/calst or by contacting the Center at (916) 278-6906 or calstudies@csus.edu.



"My experience this year as a Senate Fellow has fully prepared me to advance in the community of the California State Capitol. I have had the opportunity to be completely involved in the activities of a Senator's office dealing with legislation, committees, constituents, and more. The Senate Fellowship Program has equipped me for leadership and public service throughout my career."

Rehekah Anderson



"Being a Senate Fellow
has been a tremendous
experience. The program
provides a unique look
into the inner workings of
the legislative process. As
a Fellow you are exposed
to every aspect of Capitol
life, from it's pitfalls to
its joys. Truly, there is
nothing like it."
Ahmad Chapman



"The Senate Fellowship Program offers a unique social and professional network that provides a sense of camaraderie and lasting contacts. Since everyone was in the same boat, we were able to understand each other's trials, tribulations, and triumphs. A former fellow recruited me for a job with a consulting firm, displaying the sort of beneficial connections established through the Senate Fellows Program." Matthew Moreali

# SELECTION PROCESS & CRITERIA

ighteen Fellows are selected in May.
Fellowships are awarded after a paper screening and panel interviews of finalists conducted in either Sacramento or Los Angeles. (The selection panel is unable to conduct interviews by telephone, and funds are not available to reimburse applicants for travel expenses.)

Alternates are also selected and may be offered fellowships anytime before the program begins in October 2007.

Academic background and grade point average are important criteria. The selection panel carefully considers each applicant's employment history, depth and breadth of community and campus activities, and demonstrated interest in public policy and politics.

# Applicants' personal statements are an especially significant part of the application packet.

There are many desirable characteristics associated with prospective Fellows — including strong writing and oral communication skills, maturity, initiative, flexibility, and well-developed organizational and analytical abilities.

# FILING DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 28, 2007

ompleted application packets must be postmarked no later than February 28, 2007, to be eligible for consideration. There are no exceptions to the application deadline.

# CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT DATES

February 28, 2007

Application

deadline

May 3 & 4, 2007

Sacramento interview

dates

May 10 & 11, 2007

Los Angeles interview dates

May 2007

Notification of selection

October 2007

Senate

Fellows begin orientation

September 2008

Program concludes

"The Senate Fellows program gave me a unique place and perspective where policy meets passion, letters materialize into faces. and the message carries en masse. Legislators pass by in the hallways, staffers dutifully flank their member on the way to committee, and lobbyists camp outside members' doors. When you think you have seen and experienced everything in the Capitol, another page turns, another door opens, and the question of whether you are prepared becomes all but irrelevant." Esteban Galvan





# FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

### **Contact California Senate Fellows**

David Pacheco, Director david.pacheco@sen.ca.gov (916) 651-4160 (Senate) (916) 278-5408 (Sacramento State)

### Or log on at:

www.csus.edu/calst/senate or www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/sen/fellows/\_ home



During their fellowship, program participants are exposed to a wide range of public policy issues. Classroom presentations and discussions are supplemented with field trips. Past classes have visited the California Highway Patrol Academy; penal institutions; state parks and recreation facilities; dams and fish hatcheries; waste management and recycling facilities; and dairy farms and other agricultural venues.

# The name of here is expo

"The name of the game here is exposure - take in as much as you want! The fellowship is one of those watershed experiences that will shape you for the rest of your life. Life in the Capitol will expose you to everything they don't teach you in a college political science class." Robbin Finley

